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be no contact or communication of diseases. After a diagnosis has been determined, the patient is transferred to a special ward for treatment; all medical cases to the emergency wards, surgical cases to the wards in the main building. The question as to the kind of treatment and the result is answered by the gratitude of the patients and by the low mortality rate. In the contagious units we have battled with scarlet fever, meningitis, measles plus bronchopneumonia, chicken pox and diphtheria. In other groups pneumonia has been treated most successfully with a standard pneumonia treatment. The serum treatment is also being used satisfactorily.

A dietitian is employed and her efforts in the well-equipped diet kitchen have been very satisfactory. About forty-five special diets are sent out at each meal, without noting the liquid diets between meals. The handling of hospital linen is a great problem. An interested, intelligent civilian has been detailed to this work, for which the Chief Nurse is responsible. In all departments of the hospital where the nurse can be spared, civilian employees have been placed, thereby liberating the trained nurse for her best efforts in the care of the sick.

We need the best nurses in the Navy that our profession can give; well-balanced, tactful, patient, cheerful women, whose love for their profession moves them to give their best efforts to care for the men who offer their lives for freedom and their country.

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### THREE MONTHS OF CANTONMENT WORK

BY ETHEL HAIGITT

While nursing in the northern part of Washington State, a little over three months ago, I received a telephone message from the Chief Nurse of my "Unit" requesting me to report to her as soon as possible. I immediately made arrangements to leave my case, and upon reporting to her the same evening, learned that I was one of those selected to go to Fort Riley. Having heard a good deal about Kansas and the delightful climate, I was pleased that I was called there. We were to start on Saturday morning, which gave me two days to say good-bye and pack my small trunk.

Being a congenial party, we spent three enjoyable days on the train, arriving at the Fort at 5.20 a. m. As it was the latter part of November, daylight was just commencing to show and a thick fog made it appear much darker. To make things more pleasant, the train seemed to stop out in a freight yard, for we had a considerable distance to walk to the little depot. Then too, each had a heavy suitcase, to say nothing of numerous boxes of candy which we piled into

a sweater, tying it up like a bundle of clothes. We had not notified the Chief Nurse at the Fort of our expected arrival on that morning, consequently the usual ambulance which met the trains when nurses were expected was not there.

In the little station we found the usual large heater, with a delightful big fire burning. We stood around it for a while enjoying the warmth and discussing how we should ever get to the hospital or nurses' home, not having the slightest idea where either was situated. Upon inquiring at the ticket window if there were any kind of bus or automobile we could hire to take us there, a lieutenant stepped up and said there was not, but he was going that way and would be pleased if we would accompany him. His offer was immediately accepted with thanks, and after giving him two of our suitcases to carry, we proceeded on what seemed an endless walk, though he said it was a "short cut." I suppose the darkness, the fog, and a little homesickness helped to make it appear so, as I have taken the same walk many times since for pleasure, enjoying it more each time.

It was about 6.15 a. m. when we reached headquarters, which I afterwards learned is always known as One Hundred. Here the Chief Nurse lived. It was one of the fine old grey stone houses built for an officer's residence, but was being used, like some others, to accommodate the nurses. As there did not appear to be anyone up, we sat down in the large hall, used as a reception room by the nurses who occupied the house, and made ourselves as comfortable as possible, and decided not to let our spirits get dampened. I spied somebody's Red Cross cape hanging up, which I seized and tried on. We thought it very nice and of course wished we had ours right away. In the meantime we heard the maids getting breakfast, and very soon nurses commenced coming in. Of course we were at once recognized as new arrivals and all kinds of questions were showered upon us, as to where we came from, to what Unit we belonged, etc., while we were having breakfast. The girls seemed a jolly lot and pleased to see us. I soon found out how badly more nurses were needed, so maybe this was why their pleasure at seeing us was so great; it was not long before I was receiving newcomers with open arms.

After breakfast we met the Chief Nurse, and were conducted to another house, also a former officer's quarters. This was to be our home for the next two months, until we got into the new "Nurses' Home," then under construction.

As they were very busy on the wards, we were asked to be ready for duty by nine o'clock. Needless to say we were, and waiting for the Chief Nurse's return before that time.

The large grey stone buildings, which had been previously used

as barracks, band quarters, prison, mess halls, etc., were fast being cleaned, painted and remodeled, also a very good plumbing system was being put in. As we walked along Cavalry Drive with our Chief Nurse, she requested us to wait a minute for her, while she took one of our number into one of these buildings known as Sections, where she assigned her to duty. So we passed on until it came my turn, and into a Section marked "C," "Isolation," "Measles," I was ushered. Here I found two nurses and a head nurse, but the one whose place I was taking was to go on night duty. This Section, though full of patients, probably one hundred and forty, had only had nurses there for about two weeks; there were none to put there. Here, as in other sections, the carpenters and plumbers were at work. As you may judge, we were very short of nurses through all the Fort. We decided to put all the sickest patients and those requiring the most treatment into one large ward, thereby saving time and steps. We found the ward masters and corps men invaluable helps, many times willing to do things out of their province. The first two weeks, I must admit, I was very tired and the bed looked good to me at night. I must not forget to state that we had only eight-hour duty, that is, the day staff, that usually meant four hours on and four off. The night nurses worked twelve hours. During convalescence the boys are usually jolly, always appreciative of a cheerful smile or a kind word. When I had been in this Section three weeks, the Chief Nurse informed me that she wished to open another building, by that she meant placing nurses in it, and wanted me to take charge of it. Being still short of nurses she could only give me one, but promised more as soon as they could be obtained. When I left, I had nine for day and three for night duty, so you see she kept her promise. This section was larger than the one I had been working in, having a third story and an annex. This was for measles, also, though after the first month it was converted into the mumps wards. It was fortunate that I had had considerable hospital experience before going to Camp, as I had lots to see to, besides helping with the nursing. The building being already full of patients with only the wardmasters and the corps men to do the nursing, they had not had time to order the necessary equipment for the wards and things for use in case of emergency. I spent many extra, but very pleasant hours there, getting things into shape. Very often, when too busy during the day, I would have to leave the arranging of medicine cabinets, cupboards, drawers, etc., until after seven. I remained there in charge until our Unit was called to mobilize in New York, just three months from the time I had left our city in the north. Many days of hard work I spent there, but I enjoyed every

minute of the time, and nothing could induce me to give up my experience.

Shortly after New Year's, the nurses moved from the various houses they had occupied into the new home, a very nice two-story frame structure with all modern conveniences. We had one large community room with a piano and a Victrola and a very good floor, so when the rugs were rolled back, we usually spent a pleasant evening, dancing. There were dormitories and individual rooms for the nurses, a nice large dining room and two smaller reception rooms.

The Fort is one of the oldest in the United States and comprises thirty-three thousand acres. It has some most delightful walks, one never tires of rambling along the groves. I should have loved to spend the summer there and see the grand old oaks out in leaf.

There is a large Community Hall at the Fort where a dance is held twice a week. Then the "movies" at the Y. M. C. A. is another attraction, at least for the boys. The nurses always had a standing invitation. I must not forget the large town of Junction City, better known among the nurses as Junktown, having all the inducements of a small town striving to become a city. There used to be a half-hour car service between the Fort and the city, but I remember once signing a petition for the betterment of this, so probably it is a five-minute service by now. I am now waiting for a call to a still larger field beyond the sea, but I am sure, could our nurses realize how much they are needed in our cantonments, they would willingly give a year to the work, and not for one moment regret it.

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## CAMP MACARTHUR, WACO, TEXAS

BY LORETTA JOHNSTON, R.N.

The Base Hospital is located about three miles northwest of Waco, Texas, a city of about forty thousand inhabitants. On entering the grounds, rows of oblong buildings can be seen, rudely constructed of pine lumber but substantial and comfortable. They are connected by board sidewalks with a four-foot railing on either side. These walks are very essential during the heavy rains. There are thirty-six wards in the hospital; there are four rows laid out somewhat in the order of streets, each row containing eight wards; there are four wards in different odd places about the Base, including the nurses' and doctors' wards. The rear row contains isolation and detention wards. In each row there is a space, about seventy-five feet wide and one hundred fifty feet long, between the wards. The